

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 15390 221732Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 H-02 ITC-01 COME-00

SSO-00 /036 W

-----075869 221735Z /64

O R 221543Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5124

TREAS DEPT WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

RUOTCXAMEMBASSY LONDON 2340

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS ROME 15390

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, IT

SUBJ: FOREIGN TARIFF AND TAX TREATMENT OF GOLD COIN AND
MEDALLION SALES

REF : STATE 210937

ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL OF ITALY'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE OFFICE
(UIC), ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED IN PARA 2 REFTEL ARE
AS FOLLOWS (ANSWERS KEYED TO QUESTIONS):

(1) IMPORTATION OF ALL GOLD COINS MUST BE AUTHORIZED BY
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE. LEGAL-TENDER GOLD COINS ARE
SUBJECT TO NEITHER TAXES NOR IMPORT TARIFFS. NON-LEGAL-
TENDER COINS PAY A VALUE-ADDED TAX OF 14 PERCENT BUT NO
IMPORT DUTY. MEDALLIONS (I.E., JEWELRY) HAVE FREE ENTRY AND
ARE NOT SUBJECT TO EITHER TAXES OR DUTIES.

(2) MEDALLIONS ARE TREATED DIFFERENTLY FROM COINS AS
INDICATED ABOVE.

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(3) WHETHER COINS ARE LEGAL-TENDER IS DETERMINED BY THE MINISTRY
OF TREASURY. BASED ON A DETERMINATION OF 1973, ONLY TWO
COINS ARE PRESENTLY CONSIDERED LEGAL-TENDER: THE U.S.
DOLLAR (EAGLE AND DOUBLE EAGLE) AND THE BRITISH SOVEREIGN.

(4) THE SOUTH AFRICAN KRUGGERAND IS, THEREFORE, TREATED AS
A NON-LEGAL-TENDER COIN. HOLMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOLD, SALES, TARIFFS, COINS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME15390
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780343-0371
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780837/aaaabesn.tel
Line Count: 62
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1870635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 210937
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1660076
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN TARIFF AND TAX TREATMENT OF GOLD COIN AND MEDALLION SALES
TAGS: EFIN, IT
To: STATE TRSY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1870635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014